

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276
www.sanbag.ca.gov

■ Tony Grasso named new Exec. Director

The Board of Directors unanimously appointed Tony Grasso as SANBAG's new Executive Director following interviews held Wednesday morning. He will replace Norm King, who is retiring this winter after serving as the agency's Executive Director since 1996.

Grasso now serves as Vice President of Market Services and Chief Operating Officer as well as the Director of Joint Engineering Divisions for the Associated General Contractors of California. He also serves as the Treasurer of Transportation California, which has been active in the promotion of Proposition 42 funding. (See story on page 2). Prior to his work with AGC, Grasso served as Executive Director of the Engineering Contractors' Association and was a teacher and coach at Alta Loma High School.

Grasso was selected from a field of eight highly qualified candidates. Board President Kelly Chastain, who led the selection committee, explained that Grasso's experience with transportation issues and construction at the state level, plus his roots in San Bernardino County, made him an ideal fit for SANBAG. Grasso likely will start his new post early next year, following contract negotiations.

Also during the Board meeting, King announced that upon his retirement, he has been asked to lead the formation of a new Transportation Center at California State University, San Bernardino. The federally funded center will promote research of transportation issues and opportunities, with a focus on the efficient movement of people and goods through the Inland Empire. King expects to work half-time on this assignment, while enjoying his retirement. A party is planned for King on January 20. More details will follow.

■ Board lauds Kettle for five years of SANBAG service

Board members saluted Darren Kettle, Director of Freeway Construction, for his five years of service with SANBAG.

He was presented a commemorative pin by Board President Kelly Chastain and Executive Director Norm King for his tenure with the agency.

Congratulations, Darren!



Board President Kelly Chastain and Executive Director Norm King present a five-year service pin to Darren Kettle, center.

■ SANBAG chief financial officer succumbs to cancer

Susan Van Note, SANBAG's chief financial officer, passed away November 25 after a brief battle with cancer.

She joined the agency as a bookkeeper in 1991 and was promoted to CFO in 1994. Her work with the SANBAG budget, audits and tracking of Measure I data were highly valued by SANBAG.

A resident of Hesperia, Van Note leaves behind her husband, Bruce, and two sons, Nathan and Cameron.

■ Board awards contract for Victor Valley study

A study of transportation needs in the Victor Valley soon will be underway, following the Board's award of a consulting contract to Kimley-Horn & Associates.

The firm will help SANBAG, the Victor Valley cities, the County of San Bernardino and Caltrans address transportation needs on freeways, interchanges and major streets, taking into account the continuing growth patterns in this area.

Work on the study is expected to start in January and take about 15 months.

Down the road ...

- Dec. 14: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 15: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 16: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 4: Freeway Service Patrol Ceremony

Proposition 42 funding: Once is not enough

Representatives of transportation, business, labor and other interests are teaming up to convince Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature that funding of Proposition 42 is absolutely critical to mobility in San Bernardino County, the region and the state. If Prop 42 is not fully funded in the 2006-07 state budget, Californians will experience more gridlock, more air pollution and more effects from freight movement.

Prop 42 was intended to provide funding for highway congestion relief and public bus and train operations, which are essential for mobility. Transportation projects also aid economic development by creating new jobs and by reducing commute times and expanding travel options for those with existing jobs.

Although Prop 42 was fully funded in 2005-06, once is not enough. Public Information Officer Cheryl Donahue outlined the history of Prop 42, the projects that will be delayed or eliminated if the proposition isn't funded next year and what members of the Board of Directors can do to spread the word about this pressing need.

Prop 42 History

California voters approved Prop 42 by a margin of 70% in March 2002. The proposition dedicates the state sales tax paid on gasoline to transportation — an estimated \$1.1 billion to \$1.5 billion per year. Prior to the passage of Prop 42, that tax revenue went to the state's general fund.

The proposition, however, included a clause that allows it to be suspended in times of a state fiscal crisis. Since its inception, Prop 42 was suspended twice, but finally was funded for the first time this year, 2005-06.

The funding of Prop 42 this year provided \$1.3 billion statewide for transportation projects. However, since it had been suspended twice before, a huge backlog of projects existed, and the funding was depleted very quickly. SANBAG is in a good position to secure funds during the coming year, if Prop 42 is funded.

Although Prop 42 was funded in 2005-06, there is no guarantee that it will be funded again in 2006-07, leaving SANBAG and other transportation groups in a precarious position for planning construction projects.

Affected Projects

SANBAG has identified the following projects as ready for funding next year. These projects will not proceed to construction if Prop 42 is suspended. Construction costs that are listed are estimates only.

- 5th Street interchange with Interstate 215, San Bernardino, \$22 million
- State Street/University Parkway grade separation, City and County of San Bernardino, \$15 million

- Hunts Lane grade separation, San Bernardino and Colton, \$15 million
- Monte Vista grade separation, Montclair, \$15 million
- Live Oak Canyon interchange with Interstate 10, Yucaipa, \$12 million
- Design of Milliken Avenue grade separation, Ontario, \$3 million
- Design and construction, utility undergrounding and Route 62 improvements, Yucca Valley, \$3 million
- Interstate 215 widening, San Bernardino, \$400+ million
- Route 210/Interstate 215 connection, final phase, San Bernardino, \$55 million
- Interstate 15 widening, Victor Valley, \$81 million
- State Route 138 truck-climbing lane/widening, Victor Valley, \$6 million
- Design of La Mesa/Nisqualli Road interchange with Interstate 15, Victorville, \$2.2 million
- Funding for public transit and Metrolink service, \$3 million

Call to Action

SANBAG Board members are encouraged to reach out to their fellow council members, to the general public and to legislators to explain the importance of funding Proposition 42 during the 2006-07 fiscal year.



Sample letters will be sent to Board members to aid them in writing their elected representatives about the desperate need for these transportation funds in San Bernardino County.

Board members received fact sheets about Proposition 42. To obtain a copy of the fact sheet, please email cdonahue@sanbag.ca.gov.

